Register No. T. 10. Registered No. T. M. 659

THE TRAVANCORE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

TRIVANDRUM, FRIDAY, 7TH SEPTEMBER 1939. / 22ND CHINGAM 1115.

CONTENTS.

PROCLAMATION

BY

HIS HIGHNESS SRI PADMANABHA DASA VANCHI PALA SIR BALA RAMA VARMA KULASEKHARA KIRITAPATI MANNEY SULTAN MAHARAJA RAJA RAMARAJA BAHADUR SHAMSHER JANG, KNIGHT GRAND COMMANDER OF THE MOST EMINENT ORDER OF THE INDIAN EMPIRE, MAHARAJA OF TRAVANCORE, ISSUED UNDER DATE THE 22ND CHINGOM 1115, CORRESPONDING TO THE 7TH SEPTEMBER 1939.

WHEREAS an emergency has arisen which makes it necessary to provide for the requisitioning of vessels for the service of His Majesty;

Now, THEREFORE, We are pleased to make and promulgate the following Proclamation:—

Short title, extent and commencement.

1. (1) This Proclamation may be called the Requisitioning of Vessels Proclamation, 1115.

(2) It extends to the whole of Travancore.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

Definitions.

2. In this Proclamation unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context—

(a) "owner" of a vessel includes the agent of any such owner in any port in which the vessel may be; and

(b) "vessel" means any British or Indian ship or vessel registered in British India wherever such vessel may be, and includes all tackle, appliances, coal, stores and other movable property of any description, on, or appertaining to, such vessel, except cargo and the personal effects of passengers and the officers and crew.

Power to requisition vessels for His Majesty's Service.

3. Our Government may, by notification in the Government Gazette, empower the Flag Officer Commanding or any commissioned officer of the Royal Indian Navy or such other officers as may be considered necessary to requisition vessels temporarily for the service of His Majesty.

Requisition upon owners and masters of vessels required for such service.

4. (1) Any officer empowered under section 3 may issue a requisition in writing to the owner of any vessel or in the absence of such owner or if the name and address of such owner cannot after reasonable inquiry be ascertained, to the master of such vessel, to furnish the same for the service of His Majesty at the time and place to be specified in the requisition.

(2) An officer making a requisition under sub-section (1) shall state therein, if possible, the approximate period for which the vessel will be required.

(3) Any such officer may, at the time of making the requisition, or subsequently, exempt therefrom any tackle, appliances, coal, stores or other movable property on, or appertaining to, the vessel requisitioned.

Payment of compensation for vessels requisitioned and assessment thereof.

5. (1) Compensation shall be paid by the Government of India to the owner of any vessel requisitioned under this Proclamation.

(2) Such compensation shall be assessed by agreement between the officer making the requisition and the owner el the vessel requisitioned, or lailing such agreement, in such manner as may be prescribed by the Government of India by rules in this behalf.

Powers of requisitioning officer in case of failure of owner, etc., to furnish vessel.

6. (1). Il the owner or master ol any vessel requisitioned for the service ol His Majesty under this Proclamation fails to furnish snch vessel in accordance with the terms of the reqnisition, the officer by whom the requisition was made may, whether the compensation payable in respect of the reqnisition of snch vessel has been assessed or not, seize, retain and use such vessel lor the service of His Majesty and lor such purposes may nse such force as may be reqnired.

(2) All magistrates and police officers shall be bound to render such assistance as the requisitioning officer may reasonably demand in seizing and detaining a vessel under sub-section (1).

Penalty.

7. If any person contravenes the provisions of this Proclamation, he shall be punishable with imprisonment fer a term which may extend to three years and shall also be liable to fine

Bar of jurisdiction of Courts.

8. No requisition made under this Proclamation shall be called in question in any court, and save as herein provided no liability, civil or criminal, shall be incurred by any officer of Government by reason of anything done or purporting to be done in accerdance with the provisions of this Proclamation.

SIGN MANUAL.

NOTIFICATION.

No. 359/C. S./39

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 3 of the Requisitioning of Vessels Proclamation, 1115 the Government of His Highness the Maharaja is pleased to empower the Flag Officer Commanding and all Commissioned Officers of the Royal Indian Navy to requisition vessels temporarily for the service of His Majesty.

Huzur Cutcherry,
Trivandrum, 22nd Chingom 1115.

M. K. Nilacanta Aiyar,
Chief Secretary to Government.

ACT III OF 1115.

THE TRAVANCORE PETROLEUM ACT.

CONTENTS.

Sections.

THE TRAVANCORE PETROLEUM ACT.

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE IMPORT, TRANSPORT, STORAGE, PRODUCTION, REFINING AND BLENDING OF PETROLEUM AND OTHER INFLAMMABLE SUBSTANCES, PASSED BY HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF TRAVANCORE.

UNDER DATE THE 22ND CHINGOM 1115,

CORRESPONDING TO THE 7TH SEPTEMBER 1939.

Whereas it is expedient to provide for the import, transport, storage, production, refining and blending of petroleum and other inflammable substances; It is hereby enacted as follows:—

Preliminary.

Short title, extent and commencement.

1. (1) This Act may be called the Travancore Petroleum Act, 1115.

(2) It extends to the whole of Travancore.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

Definitions.

2. In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context:—

(a) "petroleum" means any liquid, hydrocarbon or mixture of hydrocarbons, and any inflammable mixture (liquid, viscous or solid) containing any liquid hydrocarbon and includes petrol, Diesel oil, power alcohol charcoal, gas or any other compound or preparation used for purposes of producing power;

(b) "dangerous petroleum" means petroleum having its flashing-point below seventy-six degrees Fahrenheit;

(c) "flashing-point" of any petroleum means the lowest temperature at which it yields a vapour which will give a momentary flash when ignited, determined in accordance with the provisions of Chapter II and the rules made thereunder;

(d) "to transport" petroleum means to move petroleum from one place to another in Travancore;

(e) "to import" petroleum means to bring it into Travancore by land, sea or air, otherwise than during the course of transport;

(f) "to store" petroleum means to keep it in any one place, but does not include any detention happening during the ordinary course of transport;

(g) "motor conveyance" means any vehicle, vessel or air-craft for the conveyance of human beings, animals or goods, by land, water or air, in which petroleum is used to generate the motive power;

(h) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act.

CHAPTER I.

CONTROL OVER PETROLEUM.

Import, transport and storage of petroleum.

3. (1) No one shall import, transport or store any petroleum save in accordance with the rules made under Section 4.

(2) Save in accordance with the conditions of any licence for the purpose which he may be required to obtain by rules made under Section 4, no one shall import any dangerous petroleum, and no one shall transport or store any petroleum.

Rules for the import, transport and storage of petroleum.

4. Our Government may make rules—

(a) prescribing places where petroleum may be imported and prohibiting its import elsewhere;

(b) regulating the import of petroleum;

(c) prescribing the periods within which licences for the import of dangerous petroleum shall be applied for, and providing for the disposal, by confiscation or otherwise, of any dangerous petroleum in respect of which a licence has not been applied for within the prescribed period or has been refused and which has not been exported;

(d) regulating the transport of petroleum;

(e) specifying the nature and condition of all receptacles and pipelines in which petroleum may be transported;

(f) regulating the places at which and prescribing the conditions subject to which petroleum may be stored;

(g) specifying the nature, situation and condition of all receptacles in which petroleum may be stored;

(h) prescribing the form and conditions of licences for the import of dangerous petroleum, and for the transport or storage of any petroleum, the manner in which applications for such licences shall be made, the authorities which may grant such licences and the fees which may be charged for such licences;

(i) determining in any class of cases whether a licence for the transport of petroleum shall be obtained by the consignor, consignee or carrier;

(j) providing for the granting of combined licences for the import, transport and storage of petroleum, or for any two of such purposes;

(k) prescribing the proportion in which any specified poisonous substance may be added to petroleum, and prohibiting the import, transport or storage of petroleum in which the proportion of any specified poisonous substance exceeds the prescribed proportion; and

(l) generally, providing for any matter which in his opinion is expedient for proper control over the import, transport and storage of petroleum.

Production, refining and blending of petroleum.

5. (1) No one shall produce, refine or blend petroleum save in accordance with the rules made under sub-section (2).

(2) Our Government may make rules—

(a) prescribing the conditions subject to which petroleum may be produced, refined or blended; and

(b) regulating the removal of petroleum from places where it is produced, refined or blended and preventing the storage therein and removal therefrom, except as dangerous petroleum, of any petroleum which has not satisfied the prescribed tests.

Receptacles of dangerous petroleum to show a warning.

6. All receptacles containing dangerous petroleum shall have a stamped, embossed, painted or printed warning, either on the receptacle itself or, where that is impracticable, displayed near the receptacle, exhibiting in conspicuous characters the words "Petrol" or "Motor Spirit", or an equivalent warning of the dangerous nature of the petroleum:

Provided that this section shall not apply to—

(a) any securely stoppered glass, stoneware or metal receptacle of less than two gallons capacity containing dangerous petroleum which is not for sale, or

(b) a tank incorporated in a motor conveyance, or attached to an internal combustion engine, and containing petroleum intended to be used to generate motive power for the motor conveyance or engine, or

(c) a pipe-line for the transport of petroleum, or

(d) any tank which is wholly underground, or

(e) any class of receptacles which Our Government may, by notification in Our Government Gazette, exempt from the operation of this section.

No licence needed for small stocks of non-dangerous petroleum not in bulk.

7. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Chapter, a person need not obtain a licence for the transport or storage of non-dangerous petroleum if the total quantity in his possession at any one place does not exceed five hundred gallons and none of it is contained in a receptacle exceeding two hundred gallons in capacity.

No licence needed for small private stocks of dangerous petroleum.

8. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Chapter, a person need not obtain a licence for the import, transport or storage of dangerous petroleum not intended for sale if the total quantity in his possession does not exceed six gallons.

(2) Dangerous petroleum possessed without a licence under this section shall be kept in securely stoppered receptacles of glass, stoneware or metal which shall not in the case of receptacles of glass or stoneware exceed one quart in capacity or in the case of receptacles of metal five gallons in capacity.

9. (1) The owner of a motor conveyance, who complies with the requirements of the law for the time being in force relating to the registration and licensing of such conveyance and its driver or pilot and the owner of any stationary internal combustion engine, shall not be required to obtain a licence—

Exemptions for motor conveyances, and stationary engines.

(a) for the import, transport or storage of any petroleum contained in any fuel tank incorporated in the conveyance or attached to the internal combustion engine, or

(b) for the transport or storage of dangerous petroleum not exceeding twenty gallons in quantity in addition to any quantity possessed under clause (a):

Provided the petroleum is intended to be used to generate motive power for the motor conveyance or engine.

(2) The dangerous petroleum transported or stored without a licence under clause (b) shall be kept as provided in sub-section (2) of Section 8, and, if it exceeds six gallons in quantity, shall be stored in an isolated place which does not communicate with any room where any person resides or works or in any room where persons assemble.

10. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Chapter, a railway administration, as defined in Section 3 of the Indian Railways Act, 1890, need not obtain any licence for the import or transport of any petroleum in its possession in its capacity as carrier.

No licence needed by railway administration acting as carrier.

11. Nothing in this Chapter shall apply to any petroleum which has its flashing-point not below two hundred degrees Fahrenheit.

Exemption of heavy oils.

12. Our Government may, by notification in Our Government Gazette, exempt any petroleum specified in the notification from all or any of the provisions of this Chapter.

General power of exemption.

13. (1) Our Government may authorise any officer by name or by virtue of office to enter any place where petroleum is being imported, stored, produced, refined or blended, or is under transport, and inspect all receptacles, plant and appliances used in connection with petroleum in order to ascertain if they are in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter and the rules made thereunder.

Inspection of places.

(2) Our Government may make rules regulating the procedure of officers authorised under this section.

CHAPTER II.

THE TESTING OF PETROLEUM.

14. (1) Our Government may, by notification in Our Government Gazette, authorise any officer by name or by virtue of office to enter any place where petroleum is being imported, transported, stored, produced, refined or blended and to inspect and take samples for testing of any petroleum found therein.

Inspection and sampling of petroleum.

(2) Our Government may make rules—

(a) regulating the taking of samples of petroleum for testing,

(b) determining the cases in which payment shall be made for the value of samples taken, and the mode of payment, and

(c) generally, regulating the procedure of officers exercising powers under this section.

15. (1) A standard apparatus for determining the flashing-point of petroleum shall be deposited with an officer to be appointed in this behalf by Our Government by notification in Our Government Gazette.

Standard Test Apparatus.

(2) Such apparatus shall be engraved with the words "Standard Test Apparatus", and shall be verified and corrected from time to time and replaced when necessary, in accordance with rules made under Section 21.

(3) The Standard Test Apparatus shall, on payment of the prescribed fee, be open to inspection at all reasonable times by any person wishing to inspect it.

16. (1) The officer appointed under Section 15 shall, on payment of the prescribed fee, if any, compare with the Standard Test Apparatus any apparatus for determining the flashing-point of petroleum which may be submitted to him for this purpose.

Certification of other test apparatus.

(2) If any apparatus is found by him to agree with the Standard Test Apparatus within prescribed limits, the officer shall engrave such apparatus with a special number and with the date of the comparison, and shall give a certificate in respect of it in the prescribed form, certifying that on the said date the apparatus was compared with the Standard Test

Apparatus and was found to agree with it within the prescribed limits, and specifying any corrections to be made in the results of tests carried out with the apparatus.

(3) A certificate granted under this section shall be valid for such period as may be prescribed.

(4) A certificate granted under this section shall, during the period for which it is valid, be proof, until the contrary is proved, of any matter stated therein.

(5) The officer shall keep a register in the prescribed form of all certificates granted by him under this section.

Testing officers.

17. Our Government may authorise any officer by name or by virtue of office to test petroleum of which samples have been taken under this Act, or which may have been submitted to him for test by any person, and to grant certificates of the results of such tests.

Manner of test.

18. All tests of petroleum made under this Act shall be made with a test apparatus in respect of which there is a valid certificate under Section 16, shall have due regard to any correction specified in that certificate, and shall be carried out in accordance with rules made under Section 21.

Certificate of testing.

19. (1) The testing officer after testing samples of petroleum shall make out a certificate in the prescribed form, stating whether the petroleum is dangerous or non-dangerous, and, if the petroleum is non-dangerous, the flashing-point of the petroleum.

(2) The testing officer shall furnish the person concerned, at his request, with a certified copy of the certificate, on payment of the prescribed fee, and such certified copy may be produced in any Court in proof of the contents of the original certificate.

(3) A certificate given under this section shall be admitted as evidence in any proceedings which may be taken under this Act in respect of the petroleum from which the samples were taken, and shall, until the contrary is proved, be conclusive proof that the petroleum is dangerous or non-dangerous, as the case may be, and, if the petroleum is non-dangerous, of its flashing-point.

Right to require re-test.

20. (1) The owner of any petroleum, or his agent, who is dissatisfied with the result of the test of the petroleum may, within seven days from the date on which he received intimation of the result of the test, apply to the officer empowered under Section 14 to have fresh samples of the petroleum taken and tested.

(2) On such application and on payment of the prescribed fee, fresh samples of petroleum shall be taken in the presence of such owner or agent or person deputed by him, and shall be tested in the presence of such owner or agent or person deputed by him.

(3) If, on such re-test, it appears that the original test was erroneous, the testing officer shall cancel the original certificate granted under Section 19, shall make out a fresh certificate, and shall furnish the owner of the petroleum, or his agent, with a certified copy thereof, free of charge.

Power to make rules regarding tests.

21. Our Government may make rules—

(a) for the specification, verification, correction and replacement of the Standard Test Apparatus;

(b) prescribing fees for the inspection of the Standard Test Apparatus;

(c) regulating the procedure in comparing a Test Apparatus with the Standard Test Apparatus;

(d) prescribing the form of certificate to be given in respect of a Test Apparatus so compared, and the period for which such certificates shall be valid;

(e) prescribing the form of register of such certificates;

(f) prescribing fees for comparing a Test Apparatus with the Standard Test Apparatus;

(g) regulating the procedure of testing officers in carrying out tests of petroleum, providing for the averaging of results where several samples of the same petroleum are tested and prescribing the variations from standard temperatures which may be allowed;

(h) prescribing the form of certificates of tests of petroleum and the fees which may be charged therefor;

(i) providing, where the results of the testing of samples raise a doubt as to the uniformity of the quality of the petroleum in any lot under test, for the division of the lot into sub-lots, and for the selection and testing of samples of each sub-lot and for the averaging of results in accordance with the results of tests of those samples;

(j) prescribing fees for re-test under Section 20 and providing for their refund where the original test was erroneous; and

(k) generally, regulating the procedure of all officers performing duties connected with the testing of petroleum, and providing for any matter incidental to such testing.

22. Our Government may also make rules providing specially for the testing of any form of petroleum which is viscous or solid or contains sediment or thickening ingredients, and such rules may modify or supplement any of the provisions of this Chapter or of the rules made under Section 21 in order to adapt them to the special needs of such test.

Special rules for testing viscous or solid forms of petroleum.

CHAPTER III.

PENALTIES AND PROCEDURE.

23. (1) Whoever—

General penalty for offences under the Act.

(a) in contravention of any of the provisions of Chapter I or of any of the rules made thereunder, imports, transports, stores, produces, refines or blends, any petroleum, or

(b) contravenes any rule made under Section 4 or Section 5, or

(c) breaks the condition of any licence held by him, issued under Section 4, or

(d) being for the time being in control or in charge of any place where petroleum is being imported, stored, produced, refined or blended or is under transport, refuses or neglects to show to any officer authorised under Section 13 any receptacle, plant or appliance used in such place in connection with petroleum, or in any way obstructs or fails to render reasonable assistance to such officer during an inspection, or

(e) being for the time being in control or in charge of any place where petroleum is being imported, transported, stored, produced, refined, or blended, refuses or neglects to show to any officer authorised under Section 14 any petroleum in such place, or to give him such assistance as he may require for the inspection of such petroleum, or refuses to allow him to take samples of the petroleum, or

(f) being required, under Section 27, to give information of an accident, fails to give such information as so required by that section,

shall be punishable with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees.

(2) If any person, having been convicted of an offence punishable under sub-section (1), is again guilty of any offence punishable under that sub-section, he shall be punishable for every such subsequent offence with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees.

24. (1) In any case in which an offence under clause (a) or clause (b) or clause (c) of sub-section (1) of Section 23 has been committed, the convicting Magistrate may direct that—

Confiscation of petroleum and receptacles.

(a) the petroleum in respect of which the offence has been committed, or

(b) where the offender is convicted of importing, transporting or storing petroleum exceeding the quantity he is permitted to import, transport or store, as the case may be, the whole of the petroleum in respect of which the offence was committed,

shall, together with the receptacles in which it is contained, be confiscated.

(2) This power may also be exercised by any appellate Court or by the High Court in the exercise of its revisional powers.

25. Offences punishable under this Act shall be triable by a Magistrate of the First Class.

Jurisdiction.

26. (1) Our Government may, by notification in Our Government Gazette, authorise any officer by name or by virtue of office to enter and search any place where he has reason to believe that any petroleum is being imported, transported, stored, produced, refined or blended otherwise than in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder, and to seize, detain or remove any or all of the petroleum in respect of which in his opinion an offence under this Act has been committed.

Power of entry and search.

(2) The provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1067, relating to searches shall, so far as they are applicable, apply to searches by officers authorised under this section.

(3) Our Government may make rules regulating the procedure of authorised officers in the exercise of their powers under this section subject, however, to the provisions of sub-section (2).

27. Where any accident by explosion or fire, which is attended with loss of human life or serious injury to person or property, occurs as the result of the ignition of petroleum or petroleum vapour, or occurs in or near any place where petroleum is kept and under circumstances making it likely that it was the result of such ignition, the person for the time being in charge of the petroleum shall forthwith give information to the nearest Magistrate or to the officer in charge of the nearest Police Station.

Reports of accidents with petroleum.

28. (1) The inquiry mentioned in Section 158 of the Code of Criminal Procedure shall be held in all cases where any person has been killed by an accident which the Magistrate has reason to believe was the result of the ignition of petroleum or petroleum vapour.

Inquiries into serious accidents with petroleum.

(2) Any Magistrate empowered to hold an inquest may also hold an inquiry under the said section into the cause of any accident which he has reason to believe was the result of the ignition of petroleum or petroleum vapour, if such accident was attended by serious injury to person or property, notwithstanding that no person was killed thereby.

(3) The result of all inquiries held in pursuance of this section shall be submitted, as soon as may be, to Our Government.

CHAPTER IV.

SUPPLEMENTAL.

29. In making any rules under this Act, Our Government may—

Provisions relating to rules.

(a) provide for any matter ancillary to such rules for which in its opinion provision is necessary to protect the public from danger arising from the import, transport, storage, production, refining or blending of petroleum, and,

(b) make special provision for the special circumstances of any province or place.

30. (1) Our Government may, by notification in Our Government Gazette, apply any or all of the provisions of this Act, and of the rules made thereunder with such modifications as it may specify to any dangerously inflammable substance, other than an explosive, and thereupon the provisions so applied shall have effect as if such substance had been included in the definition of petroleum.

Power to apply Act to other substances.

(2) Our Government may make rules providing specially for the testing of any substance to which any of the provisions of this Act have been applied by notification under sub-section (1), and such rules may supplement any of the provisions of Chapter II in order to adapt them to the special needs of such tests.

31. Where any enactment confers powers upon any local authority in respect of the transport or storage of petroleum, Our Government may, by notification in Our Government Gazette,—

Power to limit powers of local authorities over petroleum.

(a) limit the operation of such enactment, or

(b) restrict the exercise of such powers, in any manner it deems fit.

SIGN MANUAL.

ACT IV OF 1115.

THE TRAVANCORE ARMS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1115.

PASSED BY HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF TRAVANCORE UNDER DATE THE 22ND CHINGOM 1115 CORRESPONDING TO THE 7TH SEPTEMBER 1939.

Whereas it is expedient to amend the Travancore Arms Act (Act V of 1084) for certain purposes;

It is hereby enacted as follows:

Short title, extent and commencement.

1. (*a*) This Act may be called the Travancore Arms (Amendment) Act, 1115.

(*b*) It extends to the whole of Travancore.

(*c*) It shall come into force at once.

Insertion of a new section, 8 A.

2. After Section 8 of the Travancore Arms Act (Act V of 1084) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act) and before the heading "Going Armed and possessing Arms, etc.," the following shall be added as Section 8 A namely:—

Arrest of persons conveying arms, etc., under suspicious circumstances.

"8 A. When any person is found carrying or conveying any arms, ammunition or military stores, whether covered by a licence or not in such manner or under such circumstances as to afford just grounds of suspicion that the same are being carried by him with intent to use them, or that the same may be used, for any unlawful purpose, any person may without warrant apprehend him and take such arms, ammunition or military stores from him.

Procedure where arrest is made by person not a Magistrate or a Police officer.

Any person so apprehended, and any arms, ammunition or military stores so taken by a person not being a Magistrate or Police Officer, shall be delivered over as soon as possible to a Police Officer.

All persons apprehended by, or delivered to a Police Officer, and all arms and ammunition seized by or delivered to any such officer under this section, shall be taken without unnecessary delay before a Magistrate.

Amendment of Section 16.

3. In Section 16 of the said Act between the word "whoever" and the words "on any search" the following shall be inserted namely:

"does any act mentioned in clauses (*a*), (*c*), (*d*) or (*f*) of Section 15 in such manner as to indicate an intention that such act may not be known to any public servant as defined in the Travancore Penal Code, or to any public carrier, and whoever,"

Amendment of Section 24.

4. In Section 24 of the said Act, for the words "Every public carrier," the following shall be substituted namely:—

"Every person aware of the commission of any offence punishable under this Act shall, in the absence of reasonable excuse, the burden of proving which shall lie upon such person, give information of the same to the nearest Police Officer or Magistrate, and every public carrier."

Amendment of Section 25.

5. For Section 25 of the said Act, the following shall be substituted namely:—

Sanction required to certain proceedings under section 15 clause (f).

"25. Except in any area in respect of which a notification has been published by Our Government under Section 14, no proceeding shall be instituted against any person in respect of an offence under section 15 clause (f) without the previous sanction of Our Government or of the Magistrate of the District."

SIGN MANUAL.